

THE

שֶׁקֶל

# SHEKEL



VOLUME XLIV

NO. 6

NOV-DEC 2011

## SEEDS OF DESTRUCTION



### Plus:

- *Chanuka's Haman*
- *U.S. Holocaust Museum token*
- *In Memoriam: Daniel Friedenberg*
- *Artistry of Israel's Commemoratives*

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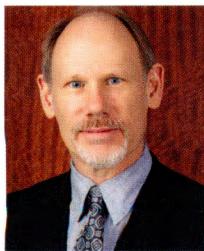
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10 December 1992;  
ex Virgil Brand Collection,  
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# THE SHEKEL

VOLUME XLIV NO. 6 (NO 240)  
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011  
ANDREW PERALA, EDITOR

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# American Israel Numismatic Association

Website: [www.theshekel.org](http://www.theshekel.org)

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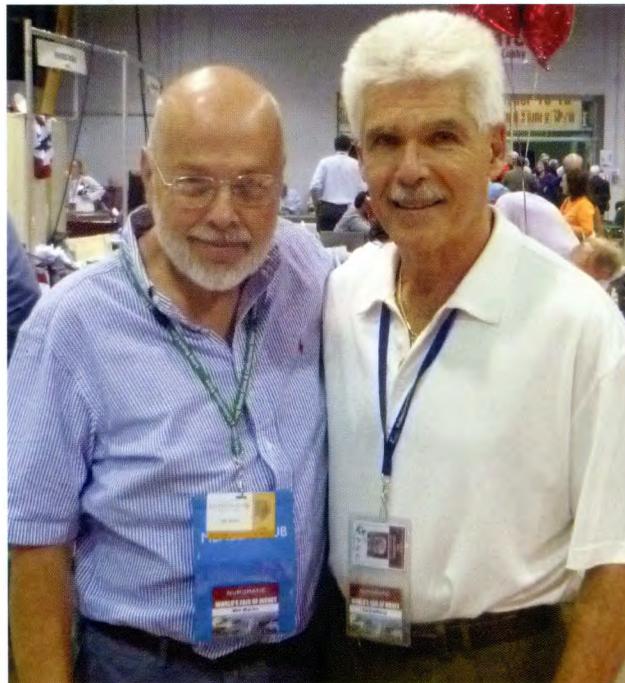
# FOSTERING LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS

The picture shown here captures the true spirit of the American Numismatic Association's convention as well as the numismatic hobby. It expresses the true meaning of our hobby—friendship! I am pictured with Ira Goldberg, a longtime friend as well as an advertiser in *The Shekel*. The picture was taken by Deven Selzer, Ira's grandson and a new junior member of AINA. I hope that all of our members gain similar friendships over the years with others in our wonderful hobby.

AINA's dues have not changed in over a decade, yet postage and other costs have skyrocketed. While the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation generously prints *The Shekel* at no charge, we still have to pay to ship the magazines from Israel to our mailing house in California via FedEx, and then pay the postage to ship Shekels to our members around the country and overseas.

It is especially costly shipping overseas. And so the board determined that we must increase our membership dues in order to be in the black. But we are going to add a new benefit that will not only offset the increase in dues, but which could save you \$10, \$20 or more each year.

The dues starting in 2012 are as follows: United States, Canada and Israel \$25/year, \$48/2 years; other countries



Photograph by Deven Selzer

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

\$35/year, \$67/2 years; Junior (10-19) free first year and \$18/year thereafter; and Life Membership \$500. If you previously paid for multiple year dues, we will honor that. And now the good news - all 2011 members will receive discount coupons from our advertisers that will allow you to save much more than the increase in dues.

If you compare our magazine and our new dues to any other numismatic organization, I think you will agree that it is still a bargain.

Wishing you a lifetime of good friendships and happy collecting,

*Mel*

# AINA at the ANA

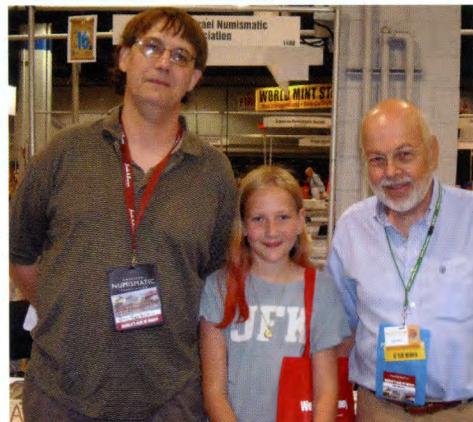
BY DONNA SIMS, NLG

The AINA table this year was not in as good a location as last year in Boston but enough members and interested others were able to find us, along with plenty of juniors and their families since we were again a table with a “question” for them to figure out the answer in the annual ANA Junior Numismatist Trivia Treasure Hunt.

The bourse floor area seemed to be quite busy the entire time, and the exhibit area was filled with superb exhibits.

Two of our very own members won awards with their exhibits, Simcha Kuritzky and Oded Paz. It takes a lot of hard work and time putting together an exhibit let alone more than one. Congratulations to both.

Both Mel and Esther Wacks helped me at the table for most of the time when they weren’t attending a meeting here or there. One of AINA’s recently renewed members, Jack Libman, was the lucky recipient of this year’s free T-shirt drawing. AINA gained a total of 24 members, 23 juniors and one adult. This brings our total membership at this time to 784. Like last year, The Kittridge Numismatic Foundation sponsors the first year of membership for every new junior and this year, we have an anonymous donor



*Top: Isabel and Mira Brodsky, two new Junior AINA members, with their grandmother next to AINA’s booth on the bourse. Above: New AINA Junior member Darla Seehusen is all smiles as she stands with her father at left and Mel Wacks.*

who will sponsor the second year of that new junior member.

The AINA board met on Wednesday evening. Like most organizations, this year’s business centered mainly on cost-cutting measures and the raising of our dues to \$25 domestic, \$35 foreign and \$18 juniors

*Continued*

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# AINA membership is still a bargain



*Continued*

after the Juniors' free first year. We have put off raising our dues the longest of any organization and we could not hold off doing so any longer, much to our not wanting to. Since we did not receive any additional names for this year's election of directors, the three current directors up for re-election were deemed duly re-elected: Josh Prottas, Roger Merritt and Ira Rezak.

Named officers remain the same this year: Mel Wacks, president; Josh Prottas, vice-president; Roger Merritt, secretary and Donna Sims, treasurer. It was also decided, even though agreed upon at last year's meeting, that re-instituting AINA's Regional Representatives program would not go forward at this time.

The general membership meeting was held Thursday afternoon with a pretty good attendance, each receiving something sweet to eat.

Arthur Boxer, head of the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation, was unable to attend the meeting because of being away on business although



*Top, left: Esther Wacks and Donna Sims staffing the AINA booth at the 2011 ANA Convention.*

*Above: Ron, Iris and Adi of the Israel Coins & Medals Corporation at the ICMC booth on the bourse of the 2011 ANA Convention in Chicago.*

he did return to the convention later the next day.

Ron Reiss, a newer member of the ICMC, presented a summary of what the ICMC has done this past year and what its plans will be for this coming year. Board member Oded Paz was the featured speaker, presenting a slide presentation on his elongated coins collection. What I personally found of interest as he was speaking was his set of "Holyland Show" elongateds that were made years ago by the local INS clubs of Southern California, I amongst them. This particular set was issued for one of the shows that were put on by the clubs jointly. Thanks Oded for the fond memories.

Overall, the AINA table did remain busy most of the time and we look forward to next year in Philadelphia. □

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# Art and symbols honor founding

Israel's first commemorative coins  
strikingly original in design



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By Mel Wacks

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## Conclusion - 1966 to 1974

### 18th Anniversary of Independence Commemorative Coin, 1966

**Z**elig Segal designed the 1966 (Jewish year 5726) 18th Anniversary of Independence coin, featuring a stylized inscription in Hebrew: Am Yisrael Chai ("The people of Israel live on" or "The nation of Israel lives"). The Hebrew word for "lives" (Chai) is stressed—it has a numerical value of 18.

This theme is repeated in a circumferential inscription in Hebrew, which translates as "18 Years of the State of Israel."

An article in Wikipedia indicates that Shlomo Carlebach wrote the song "Am Yisrael Chai" in the mid-1960s on behalf of the plight of Soviet Jewry.

The opening lyrics have been translated by Shiri Bertrand as:

*The people of Israel are alive  
Here is the Torah,  
and here is the prayer,  
and here is the divine spirit  
here is our holy land,*

*Continued*



Medal image courtesy Goldberg's Coins

*The Hebrew University State Silver Medal, above right, struck in 1965, 59 millimetres in diameter, features a logo designed by Zelig Segal. Above left: A modern aluminum chanukiot by Zelig Segal has a spiral cutout and a brass shamash candle cup. On the opening page: Israel's 1965 18th anniversary commemorative coin designed by Zelig Segal.*

*Continued*

*which you gave us  
we will never move from here.*

This is the first of two coins designed by Zelig Segal; the other is the 1969 "Shalom" coin, to be discussed later in this article.

Zelig Segal was born in Jerusalem in 1933, where he received a religious education. From 1949 through 1954, Segal studied at the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts, and from 1964 to 1968 he served as Director of the Department of Gold and Silver-smithing at Bezalel.

In 1955, Segal designed the logo of Hebrew University which has appeared on a number of medals.

Israel's 18th Anniversary of Independence "Am Yisrael Chai" 5-lirot commemoratives were struck in 25 gram, .900 fine silver with concave surfaces at The Royal Mint, Utrecht,

Holland in quantities of 32,394 Brilliant Uncirculated and 10,408 Proof coins, issued at \$4.50 and \$9, respectively.

## 19th Anniversary of Independence

Israel's 19th Anniversary of Independence commemorative coin features a stunning design by Roli, a design firm founded by G. Rothschild and Zev Lippman, commemorating "A Decade of Eilat's Port."

The Hebrew letter "lamed" in the word "Eilat" is in the form of a lighthouse, while the other letters form the seawall, with swirling waves below.

The website of the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation ([www.israel-mint.com](http://www.israel-mint.com)) indicates that:

"Three thousand years ago King Solomon's merchant ships sailed from the Port of Eilat.

Over centuries Eilat changed hands many times as nations wished to rule

*Continued*

# STYLIZED LIGHTHOUSE STUNNING



*Images courtesy Israel Coins & Medals Corp..*

*The influence of shipping a central theme running through Israel's early Commemorative coins. On the 1967 5-lirot commemorative a large, stylized denomination on the obverse is balanced on the reverse by the word Eilat spelled out in Hebrew as a lighthouse. The actual lighthouse is a modest structure.*

*Continued*

it because of its importance as a gateway to Africa and the Far East.

In the process Eilat became a desolate area. Israeli sovereignty over Eilat was renewed in the wake of the War of Independence.

At the end of 1956, the Sinai Campaign freed Eilat from its blockade. This marked the beginning of the rapid development of Eilat. After a number of years it was granted the status of a city and its port became Israel's outlet to Africa and the East."

Roli designed the logo commemorating Israel's 25th Anniversary in 1973, which has appeared on stamps, medals, and more.

The coin designers evidently took considerable artistic license in the depiction of a generic lighthouse, since the actual Eilat lighthouse is a rather bare-bones structure.

The denomination-side design was

created by Nathan Karp.

Israel's 19th Anniversary of Independence "Port of Eilat" 5-lirot commemoratives were struck in 25 gram, .900 fine silver planchets with concave surfaces at The Royal Mint, Utrecht, Holland in quantities of 30,196 Brilliant Uncirculated and 7,720 Proof coins, issued at \$4.50 and \$9, respectively.

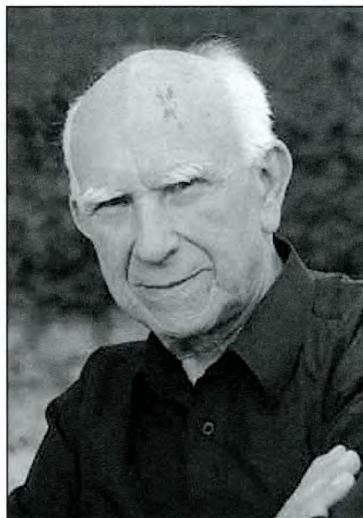
## 20th Anniversary of Independence

The "Temple of Jerusalem" as depicted on silver sela coins of Bar Kochba (130 to 132 C.E.) was featured on Israel's 20th Anniversary of Independence coin celebrating Jerusalem, along with a panoramic view of the ancient Jewish capitol.

In 1968, for the first time, Israel's coins commemorating the Anniversary of Independence were minted in gold as well as silver.

*Continued*

# ICONIC OBJECTS, RENDERED IN ART



*Coin image courtesy Goldberg's Coins*

*Above: Jacob Zim, the designer who incorporated the symbol of the Ark from ancient Bar Kokhba silver tetradrachm (or Sela) coins, as on the specimen dated "Year 2" (133/4 CE), above right, into the essential design element on the 20th Anniversary of Independence 1968 Commemorative 100-lirot gold and 10-lirot silver coins.*

*Continued*

While designer Jacob Zim had previously designed other commemorative coins (Chanuka, Szold, 1960; Chanuka, Maccabees, 1961; and Bank of Israel, 1964), and banknotes (half-lira and ten lira in 1956, in collaboration with the Shamir brothers), this was his first Independence Commemorative coin—and he designed both sides.

Jacob Zim was born in 1920 in Sosnowiec, Poland. He immigrated to Israel in 1945, and studied for two years at the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts.

Zim taught graphic design from 1962 to 1985 at the French WIZO School, Tel Aviv, and founded the design department at Amit School, Tel Aviv, in 1955.

In 1982, Jacob Zim won the “In-sea” Prize of the Ministry of Education for contributions to art education.

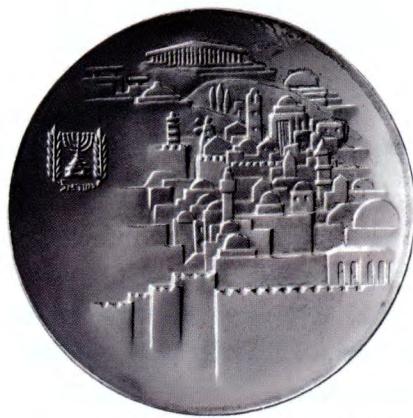
Paul Romanoff, Ph.D. (*Jewish Symbols on Ancient Jewish Coins*) describes the “temple” design on Bar Kochba coins as “represent[ing] the inner part of the Temple as described by Josephus. The dotted design between the columns suggest the Ark [of the Covenant], hidden behind the veil.

“The two circles in the Ark represent the rings or staves [by which it could be carried]. The oval lines above the Ark signify the covering or the cherubs.”

Ya'akov Meshorer (*Ancient Jewish Coinage*) states that “the symbolic intent was the wish of regaining Je-

*Continued*

# GOLD FIRST STRUCK ON 1968 COINS



*Images courtesy Israel Coins & Medals Corp.*

*The 1968 anniversary commemoratives were struck in silver, but as 10 lirot and not 5 lirot, and in gold for the first time, as 100 lirot. The designs are similar between the two denominations but subtly different on the obverse - note the rows of incuse cartouches on the column foundations. They are not precisely the same. The bottom row of two "circles" on the Ark represent the rings for carrying the ark on staves; the silver Ark has more space between the circles and the ark itself compared to the circles on the gold Ark. The cities on the reverse appear similar at first glance but each is rendered differently.*

*Continued*

rusalem and the reconstruction of the Jewish religious center. The image ... symbolizes the concept of the Temple in Jerusalem; it does not need any more specific features."

The panoramic view of Jerusalem, on the reverse of Israel's 1968 Independence coins, begins with the

Western Wall at the bottom, and continues through the Knesset (Israel's Parliament) at the top.

Israel's 20th Anniversary of Independence "Jerusalem" 10-lirot commemoratives were struck in 26 gm., .900 fine silver with concave surfaces at The Swiss Federal Mint, Berne in

*Continued*

# TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN REMEMBERS



*Israel's National Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: A special tombstone has been erected to the memory of all missing soldiers in the military cemetery on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.*

*Continued*

quantities of 50,000 Brilliant Uncirculated and 20,501 Proof coins, issued at \$6.50 and \$12.50, respectively. In addition, 12,500 Proof 100 Lirot gold coins (on 25 gram, .800 fine gold planchets) were struck by the Swiss Mint, and sold for \$100.

## 21st Anniversary of Independence

While the 1969 (5729) coin commemorating Israel's 21st Anniversary of Independence is called "Shalom" (Peace), it is dedicated to the Unknown Jewish Soldier.

A special tombstone has been erected to the memory of missing soldiers in the military cemetery on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

The obverse, designed by Zelig Segal, features the Hebrew word for peace (shalom), with three of the seven branches of a menorah depicted in the letter shin.

The reverse design by Nathan Karp pictures a steel military helmet with an olive sapling rising from it; to the left, arranged in the form of a monument, is a Hebrew quote from Deuteronomy 34:6, describing the death of Moses: "And no-one knew his burial place."

Israel's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was designed and built to look like a lost submarine. Israel's 21st Anniversary of Independence "Shalom" 10-lirot commemoratives were struck in 26 gm., .900 fine silver with concave surfaces at the Kretschmer Mint, Jerusalem ("K" mintmark) in quantities of 20,199 Brilliant Uncirculated. At the United States San Francisco Mint in quantities of 39,924 Brilliant Uncirculated and 19,878 Proof. Original issue prices were \$7.25 in Brilliant Uncirculated and \$14.50 in Proof.

*Continued*

# 1969 HONORS 'ULTIMATE SACRIFICE'



*Images courtesy Israel Coins & Medals Corp.*

*The silver 10-lirot 21st anniversary commemorative coin is dedicated to all Israel's missing and unknown soldiers who have fallen in defense of their nation. The reverse, at right above, features a soldier's helmet and a quote from Deuteronomy (34:6).*

*Continued*

## 22nd Anniversary of Independence

This design by Shlomo Rotem is beautiful in its simplicity of a schematic plough, symbolic of the first agricultural school (Mikveh Israel) in Eretz Israel, founded in 1870 by Charles Netter, the school's first headmaster.

The country's Ottoman Turkish rulers allocated 750 acres to Netter's project. Netter pioneered progressive educational methods to teach agriculture as well as a new way of life for the future farmers of this land. There were only about 13,000 Jews in the country at that time, virtually all in the old traditional cities: Jerusalem, Tiberias, Safed and Hebron.

The Alliance Israelite Universelle was founded in Paris in 1860. It was the first Jewish international

organization whose aim was to combat anti-Semitism and social discrimination. Along with its political activities it undertook to establish an educational network. It opened schools in 15 countries from Morocco to Persia, where there were Jewish communities, often in conditions of squalor and ignorance.

The Hebrew inscriptions on the reverse are CENTENARY OF MIKVEH ISRAEL above the plow, and ALLIANCE ISRAELITE UNIVERSELLE below.

Painter and Graphic designer Shlomo Rotem was born in 1931 in Kibbutz Beit Zera.

The obverse of the 22nd Anniversary of Independence coin features a small representation of the Mikveh Israel School to the

*Continued*

# LEGENDARY SCHOOL ON 1970 COIN

Images courtesy

Israel Coins & Medals Corp.

The 1970 10-lirot coin commemorates the centenary of the founding of the first agricultural school in Israel.



*Continued*

right of a large head of wheat.

Over the years, in addition to educating tens of thousands of children, Mikveh Israel has served as a base for the pre-state defense force, the Haganah, and a home for waves of new immigrant children. Today the school has a student body of more than a thousand boys and girls, Jews and non-Jews, Orthodox and non-Orthodox—a microcosm of Israel itself.

Israel's 22nd Anniversary of Independence "Mikveh Israel" 10-lirot commemoratives were struck in 26 gm., .900 fine silver with concave surfaces; 47,547 Brilliant Uncirculated coins were struck at the Kretschmer Mint, Jerusalem and 22,474 coins were struck at The Swiss Federal Mint, Berne; issue prices were \$7.25 and \$14.50 respectively.

## 23rd Anniversary of Independence

Both sides of this coin, commemorating Science in the Service of Industry, are stunning—the

work of Shlomo Rotem (obverse) and Jacob Zim (reverse). The obverse features a stylized representation of Israel's atomic reactor building at Nahal Sorek. Israel maintains one of its two nuclear reactors at Nahal Sorek (the other is at Dimona). The reactor was provided to Israel by the United States. The reactor at Nahal Sorek is inspected by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) twice a year.

According to the facility's official site, [www.soreq.gov.il](http://www.soreq.gov.il): "Soreq NRC is an applied research and development institute affiliated to the Israel Atomic Energy Commission." The stated principal facilities include a 5-megawatt research reactor, and a 10-megavolt proton cyclotron accelerator. The facility also has sophisticated laboratories for applied research and development. Operational since 1958, Soreq has contributed "equipment for nuclear medicine and radio-pharmaceutics to non-destructive testing and development of so-

*Continued*

# 1971 VIEWS SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

*Images courtesy  
Israel Coins & Medals Corp.*  
“Science in the Service of  
Industry” is the theme of the  
1971 10-lirot commemora-  
tive silver coin issued to  
mark the 23rd anniversary  
of the founding of the mod-  
ern state of Israel.



*Continued*

phisticated methods for detecting contraband and security-threat materials.” Training in radiation protection training, as well as consulting and supervisory services also are offered along with a “personal dosimetry service.”

On the other hand, The Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control ([www.wisconsinproject.org](http://www.wisconsinproject.org)) notes that “In 1987, the Institute for Defense Analyses, which does Pentagon-funded research, released a Pentagon-sponsored report confirming that Israel was still conducting extensive research in the technology required for the design and fabrication of nuclear weapons. According to the report, Israel’s facilities at Soreq and Dimona have the same mission as the Los Alamos, Lawrence Livermore and Oak Ridge National Laboratories in the United States.” The Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control is an advocacy organization dedicated to stemming the spread of nuclear and other weap-

ons of mass destruction.

The imaginative design on the coin’s reverse at first looks like an atom with whirling electrons around a nucleus of protons and neutrons—but the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation site [www.israelmint.com](http://www.israelmint.com) describes it as “a representation of a cog-wheel rotating a molecule slightly off-center, conveying the impression of motion.”

Israel’s 23rd Anniversary of Independence “Science in the Service of Industry” 10-lirot commemoratives were struck in 26 gm., .900 fine silver with concave surfaces; 22,700 Brilliant Uncirculated coins (with Star of David mintmark to the left of the building) were produced at the Israel Government Mint, Jerusalem; 29,982 Brilliant Uncirculated coins were struck, and 17,501 Proofs were produced at the State Mint, Utrecht. Issue prices were \$7.25 for the Brilliant Uncirculated coins and \$14.50 for the Proofs.

*Continued*

# ISRAELI AVIATION SALUTE IN 1972

*Images courtesy*

*Israel Coins & Medals Corp. The founding its own aerospace industry, from the ground up, is honored on Israel's 1972 commemorative coin and on one of two 1962 medals, below right, issued to mark the nation's first satellite launch.*



*Continued*

## 24th Anniversary of Independence

Venerable designers Rothschild and Lippman again produced the strikingly handsome designs for the 24th Anniversary of Independence coins commemorating Israel Aviation. The aircraft depicted on the reverse has stylized wings and body suggesting a seven-branched menorah.

The website of the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation indicates that: "El Al, Israel's national airline, was established in the first few months of the existence of Israel. The siege by land, imposed by the Arabs, obligated the company to develop and maintain air-links with four continents. It has maintained a high degree of efficiency in its operations. Inland aviation is operated mainly by Arkia, whose network of operation expanded considerably after the Six-Day War. The Israel Aircraft Industry, which began by overhauling old planes, quickly adapted it-



self to the jet age. It built jet trainers, the Arava STOL transport, the Commodore Jet executive aircraft, the Gabriel Sea-to-Sea Missile and the Kfir [fighter jet] for the Israel Air Force."

In 1969, Israel issued a State Medal celebrating El Al's 20th Anniversary. Designed by the great American artist Ben Shahn, it features an imaginative dove and the inscription — in Hebrew and English — BRING BACK MY SONS FROM FAR AND MY DAUGHTERS FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (*Isaiah 43:6*).

*Continued*

# EL AL, INDEPENDENCE HONORED



Above, a 1969 State medal honoring El Al airlines. At right, the 25th Anniversary of Independence commemorative, issued in gold and silver.

Images courtesy Israel Coins & Medals Corp



Continued

In 1962, Israel issued a couple of medals commemorating the successful launch on July 5, 1961 of a meteorological rocket designed wholly by Israeli scientists and technicians—as is suggested by the thrusting “1” in the denomination of the 24th Anniversary of Independence coin.

Israel’s 24th Anniversary of Independence “Israel Aviation” 10-lirot commemoratives were struck in 26 gm., .900 fine silver with concave surfaces; 49,870 Brilliant Uncirculated coins and 15,000 Proofs were produced at the Israel Government Mint, Jerusalem; issue prices were \$7.25 and \$14.50 respectively.

## 25th Anniversary of Independence

For the first time, in 1973, Israel abandoned the concave surfaces on their Anniversary of Independence

coins. Presumably the design featuring Israel’s Declaration of Independence did not readily adapt to concave surfaces. This was a portent of things to come — when Israel would abandon altogether the concave surfaces that made their coins uniquely distinctive and contributed to their beauty.

The rather plain obverse by Rothschild and Lippman simply shows the Israel State Seal and inscriptions in Hebrew, Arabic and English.

The reverse was designed by Nathan Karp, and featured an excerpt from the Declaration, along with the signatures of the Jewish State’s founding fathers — headed by David Ben-Gurion.

Israel’s 25th Anniversary of Independence 10-lirot commemoratives were struck in 26 gm., .900 fine silver in editions of 123,991

Continued

# LAST CONCAVE COMMEMORATIVE

*Continued*



*The signed document of the official Israel Declaration of Independence, May 14, 1948.*

Brilliant Uncirculated coins and 41,500 at the Israel Government Mint, Jerusalem; issue prices were \$12 and \$21.50 respectively. In addition, .900 fine gold coins were minted in Proof quality at The Swiss Federal Mint, Berne as follows: 27,762 50 lirot, 7 gm., priced at \$55; 27,510 100 lirot, 13.5 gm., at \$110; and 17,927 200 lirot, 27 gm., only available in three-piece gold sets priced at \$385.

## 26th Anniversary of Independence

This was the last of the first generation of beautifully designed Anniversary of Independence coins produced on concave planchets. It commemorates The Revival of the Hebrew Language as initiated virtually single-handedly by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda. And it was designed by the creative team of Rothschild and Lippman. As described on the website of the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation ([www.israelmint.com](http://www.israelmint.com)): “In 1879 Eliezer Ben-Yehuda published an article that called for settling in Palestine, the revival of the Hebrew language and its adaptation for every day use by the Jewish community in Palestine. He himself immigrated to Palestine two years later and devoted his life to the propagation of the Hebrew language. He is credited with coining many new words in Hebrew. The Ben-Yehuda home was the first in modern Palestine, where Hebrew exclusively was spoken.”

The reverse features an ancient scroll, representing the survival of the Hebrew language over the generations. Running vertically along the side of the scroll is the

*Continued*

# REVIVAL OF LANGUAGE FOR 1974

*Images courtesy  
Israel Coins & Medals Corp*

*At right: The 1974 commemorative honors the revival of the Hebrew language.*

*Below, right: A 1959 stamp honors Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, chief architect of the Hebrew language revival.*



*Continued*

Hebrew inscription THE REVIVAL OF THE HEBREW LANGUAGE. And on the left is a listing of some of the Hebrew words innovated by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, with his signature below.

Israel's 26th Anniversary of Independence "Revival of the Hebrew Language" 10 lirot commemoratives were struck in 26 gm., .900 fine silver with concave surfaces. 127,233 Brilliant Uncirculated coins and 49,697 Proofs were produced at the Israel Government Mint, Jerusalem; issue prices were \$12 and \$21.50 respectively. This particular coin was the most popular in the Anniversary of Israel Independence commemorative series.

After concave surfaces were abandoned, mintages (and demand) kept dropping in subsequent years. Oh, for the good old days! ☺



## Clarification

*In a previous article in this series, it was indicated that Miriam Karoli was the designer of Israel's 11th Anniversary of Independence coin (Ingathering of the Exiles). Actually Miriam Karoli designed the obverse (the denomination-side) and Rothschild and Lippman designed the reverse, which featured hora dancers.*

# Odesser award winner's acceptance remarks

BY SAUL B. NEEDLEMAN, PH.D.

First, I'd like to thank the Token and Medal Society for honoring me with the Ben and Sylvia Odesser Award. This award has special significance for me for a number of reasons.

Ben was an old friend of mine. We used to spend hours at his home discussing various aspects of coin and token collecting and I can't begin to count the number of coins and tokens I bought from him over the years.

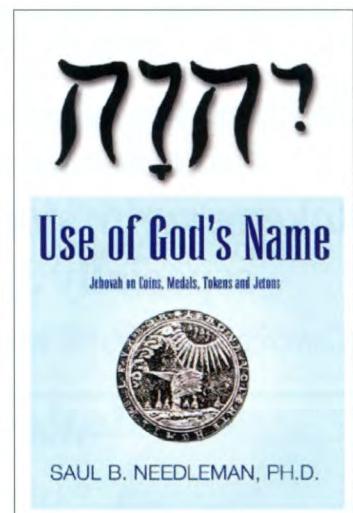
Of course, I've known Bob Leonard for decades, personally and through the Chicago Coin Club and the Israel Numismatic Society of Illinois, as well as being personal friends.

I must mention Mr. F.W. Lesser of New York, who I never got to meet but who heard that I was writing a book on the use of JEHOVAH in Hebrew on coins and medals. He contacted me and said he was going to Israel and wanted to arrange for the publication of my book in Israel though the book was barely started at the time. He said he intended to pay for its publication. He died in Israel and I published the book a couple of years later.

I must mention Mr. Mel Wacks with whom I've had many discussions about a number of things. Finally, I must mention my father, Jack, who, at age 18, walked across Europe east-bound in 1921, spent a year in Tur-



*Saul B. Needleman, Ph.D., receives the Ben & Sylvia Odesser Memorial Award from Bob Leonard, board member of TAMS, for the best exonumia or coin article published in 2010 in The Shekel.*



SAUL B. NEEDLEMAN, PH.D.

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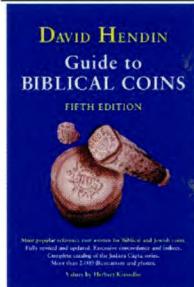
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# Needleman 40 years in numismatics

*Continued from Page 21*

key, and then walked back across Europe before returning to the U.S. Later, when I was six years old he gave me his collection of coins and paper money from all the countries he had visited and started me as a collector. A couple of years later, he opened a school in Havana, Cuba to teach English to people waiting to enter the U.S.

Among his students was the woman, who, several years later,

became my mother.

I might add that there was another student in his class whose name was Charles Berlitz, who 'borrowed' my father's teaching procedure and later became famous.

Thank you all again.

Last, but not least, I must mention Sondra, my wife of 56 years, who went through my book and every numismatic article I wrote to ensure I was saying what I intended to say. □

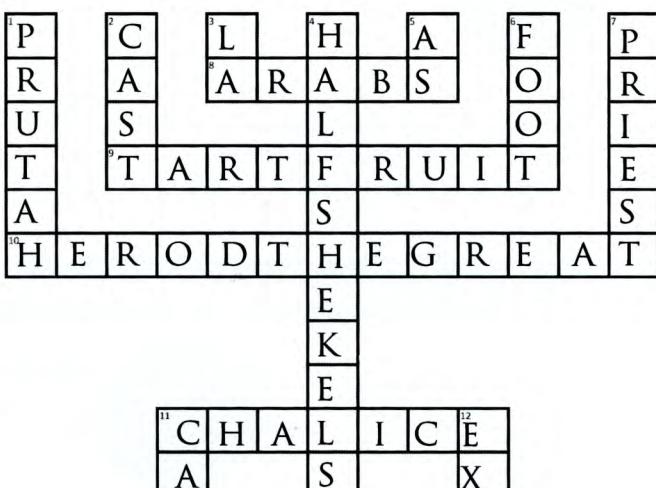
## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

### ACROSS

8) These conquerors of the Holy Land issued coins starting in the late Seventh Century C.E.  
9) Description of ethrog—the citrus found on the large silver coins of Bar Kochba and some bronze coins of the First Revolt (two words).  
10) The King of Judaea of Idumean heritage who rebuilt the Temple (three words).  
11) Ceremonial object used in the Temple that is featured on the Shekels of the First Revolt.

### DOWN

1) Smallest Judaean bronze denomination issued during the First Revolt.  
2) The way the planchets were prepared for ancient coins, before they were struck.  
3) The Ptolemaic designation of "Year One," as used on a Procurator coin.  
4) Silver coins used for payment of the annual Jewish Temple Tax (2 words).  
5) Roman medium bronze denomination equivalent to a quarter of a sestertius.  
6) What the Roman soldier is resting on his helmet, on some Judaea Capta coins.  
7) Translation of title appearing on many Hasmonean bronze coins: COHEN GADOL = High \_\_\_\_\_.  
11) Roman name for Jerusalem, after 130 C.E.: COLONIA AELIA \_\_\_\_\_. (abbreviation).  
12) Latin inscription found on denarius issued by M. Aemilius Scaurus and P. Plautius Hypsaeus c. 58 B.C.E. commemorating the defeat of the Nabataean King Aretas: \_\_\_\_ S.C.



*Crossword puzzle by Mel Wacks*

# Lise Meitner: Physicist

*Unsung scientist first to explain nuclear fission, ushering in atomic age*

BY ANDREW PERALA

If she were alive today, Lise Meitner (1878 to 1968) likely would not be surprised that her name is not well known outside the circles of science.

Her life as a woman of Jewish heritage in early 20th century Vienna and Berlin had been a constant struggle. Sexism against women was rampant, and anti-Semitism was on the rise at an alarming rate.

Yet, Meitner persevered through the oppression, earning the first doctorate in theoretical physics from the University of Vienna. She moved to Berlin, and, at first, found unofficial work because no science institute yet hired women. She worked through the many challenges. Soon enough, proof of her superior abilities in both theoretical and applied physics became undeniable, and Meitner became head of the radiologic department at a prestigious Berlin research institute.

Meitner was born in 1878 into a secular family in Vienna that, according to some biographers, believed Judaism to be old fashioned. Family life was comfortably middle-class with no material privations. But her father had to pay for tutors so she could qualify for the university;



*Lise Meitner*

girls at the time were not allowed entry in the gymnasium. Life was not easy for the Meitners. Despite her father's achievement in becoming one of the first Jews allowed to practice law in the city, anti-Semitism was growing. At the age of 20, Meitner became a Protestant, reportedly joining only after two of her six siblings converted to Catholicism.

At the time, Berlin was one of the epicenters of physics, and Meitner had moved to the city because she wanted to attend Max Planck's lectures at the University of Berlin. Planck would soon recognize her abilities; the two became lifelong friends.

Yet, even with the backing of Germany's A-List scientists, Meitner's first "office" at the University of Berlin was in a research lab converted hastily from a carpenter's shop.

For Meitner, the pursuit of science was paramount; challenges were just distractions. Her partner from the beginning was Otto Hahn, a laboratory chemist of the first rank. In 1912, they moved their research to the new Kaiser Wilhelm

*Continued*

# Denied rightful share of Nobel Prize, Meitner earns lasting immortality



Above: Lise Meitner at a seminar at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania in 1959. At right, the U.S. Enrico Fermi Presidential medal awarded her in 1966. Below left, a 1988 German postage stamp honoring her. Below, element 109 named for her.



75 <b>Re</b> rhodium 186.207(1)	76 <b>Os</b> osmium 190.23(3)	77 <b>Ir</b> iridium 192.217(3)	78 <b>Pt</b> platinum 195.084(9)	79 <b>Au</b> gold 196.966 569(4)
107 <b>Bh</b> bohrium [264]	108 <b>Hs</b> hassium [277]	109 <b>Mt</b> meitnerium [268]	110 <b>Ds</b> darmstadtium [271]	111 <b>Rg</b> roentgenium [272]

*Continued*

Gesellschaft, where in 1918 Meitner was named head of the institute's radioactivity department.

Meitner and Hahn made important discoveries together. In 1918, they discovered Protactinium, the missing Element 91 between Uranium ( $Z=92$ ) and Actinium ( $Z=89$ ) that researchers had sought for years.

Although Hahn and Meitner remained professional research partners for the next two decades, their personal differences became apparent during World War I. Hahn worked in the German gas warfare division; Meitner volunteered as an X-ray nurse for the Austrian army.

After the discovery of the neutron in 1932 (by James Chadwick), Meitner and Hahn's research in radioactivity

intensified. Their research acquired more urgency in 1934, when Enrico Fermi's experiments in neutron bombardment of uranium produced results the legendary physicist could not explain.

Meitner and Hahn took up the challenge. They struggled for four years to understand the results. At the time, according to the Chemical Heritage Foundation, scientists expected that bombarding the heaviest element then known - uranium - with the electrically neutral but massive neutron would produce elements close in atomic number to uranium, "quite possibly (even) elements with higher atomic numbers than uranium." Proton bombardment already had shown this possibility.

But on the verge of a breakthrough,

*Continued*

# Meitner dedicated life to science

*Continued*

Meitner and Hahn's research was suspended when Germany invaded Austria in 1938, rendering Meitner's Austrian passport invalid.

Jews had been leaving Germany in large numbers since 1933. Meitner would later state her shame at not leaving then.

But the research was so compelling - indeed, Meitner was so committed to her research that her chief biographer states Meitner never was known to have a romantic relationship - and Meitner stayed in Berlin, almost until it was too late.

Warned by friends the borders would soon be closed, she packed a small bag, took a train west and slipped over the border. She made it to Denmark and Niels Bohr's institute; later in the war she settled in neutral Sweden.

During her short stay in Copenhagen, she had a clandestine meeting with Hahn. He described their latest lab results of bombarding uranium with neutrons.

Meitner made some calculations; she suggested to Hahn that he look for the much lighter weight barium. He found barium among the results.

But a tiny fraction of mass was missing. With her nephew, the physicist Otto Robert Frisch, the pair calculated the missing mass. It was Meitner who performed the ultimate calculation and made



*Above: The Lise Meitner medal presented annually by the European Physical Society.*

*At right: Lise Meitner in her later years.*



the leap to a pair of key insights:

- Atoms could be split into smaller atoms. (Frisch called it fission.)
- Meitner realized as well that the missing mass had been released as energy.

Meitner proved this transformation of mass into energy using Einstein's  $E=MC^2$  formula. The result was extraordinary. Niels Bohr shared the news with an elated Einstein. This would prove to be one of several steps triggering the Manhattan Project.

But that was in the future. Einstein was delighted. "Our own Marie Curie!" Einstein said of Meitner.

Denied a share of the 1945 Nobel Prize in Chemistry given to Hahn, Meitner later won immortality of another, perhaps greater kind.

In 1995, meitnerium was placed permanently on the universal standard, the Periodic Table of Elements. Meitner received the honor for Element 109; Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen, the first Nobel Laureate in Physics, had to wait for Element 111. □

# A single life, a token gesture

*The story behind a token from the  
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*

BY MAX B. SPIEGEL

**A**t the end of 2009 I received a letter from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum asking for donations after the tragic shooting of a security guard on June 10, 2009.

I was surprised to see that this appeal, which told the story of a Holocaust survivor, was accompanied by a token. While the token itself was rather unremarkable, the story of how it related to the Holocaust survivor was compelling.

Charlene Schiff was only 12 years old when she hid alone in the forests near her home in



*Image courtesy Max B. Spiegel  
One side of a 25 millimeter brass token  
issued by the United State Holocaust Me-  
morial Museum only hints at the profound  
message behind the token's creation.*

Poland.

There she "would dig little holes and cover them with branches and leaves, creating places to hide..."

*Continued*

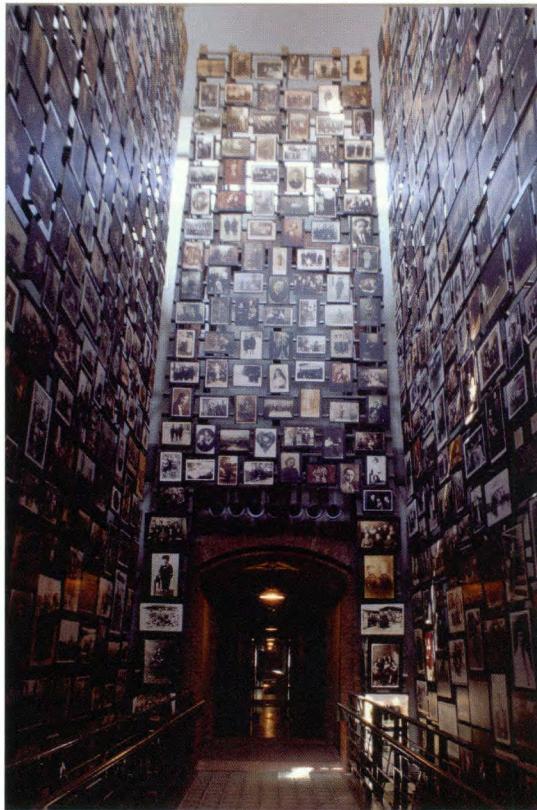
# SIMPLE TOKEN: PROFOUND STORY

*Continued*

She got caught, however, when she was too tired and weak to fully cover the hole, and she heard a man say "wylaz," Ukrainian for "crawl out." As she came out of her hiding place, she remembered that her mother

had sewn jewelry and a few gold coins into the inside of her jacket.

As the man began questioning her, Charlene begged to go to the bathroom. The man reluctantly agreed. When she returned, she offered him one of the gold coins that her mother had given her with the instructions to save them



*United States Holocaust Memorial Museum  
Tower of Faces: This three-story tower includes photographs from the Yaffa Eliach Shtetl Collection. Taken between 1890 and 1941 in Eishishok, a small town in what is now Lithuania, they describe a vibrant Jewish community that existed for 900 years. In 1941, an SS mobile killing squad entered the village and within two days massacred the Jewish population.*

he could take the coin and then claim his reward.

The man took the gold coin, but allowed her to stay hidden in the forests. Many years later, Charlene wrote: "As a mother, I can hardly imagine the terror and grief my mother and so many

for a "rainy day."

Charlene told the man that the coin was worth more than the reward he would receive for bringing her to the authorities, but his logic was simple:

*Continued*

# TOKEN AIDED FUND-RAISING



*Photograph by Edward Owen,  
courtesy USHMM Photo Archives*

*Front view of the railcar on display at  
the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum,  
located in Washington, D.C.*

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*Continued*

other parents went through as they so helplessly tried to protect their children from the unthinkable. I think about my mother sewing that gold coin into my jacket—the seemingly small task and the undeterred hope that doing this could save my life.”

The token was included with Charlene’s story to represent the gold coin that had saved her life during the Holocaust.

On one side of the token, it reads “The power of ONE

*Continued*



*Image courtesy Max B. Spiegel  
Other side of 25-millimeter brass token is-  
sued by the United State Holocaust Memo-  
rial Museum in Washington, D.C.*

# UN SETS JAN. 27 REMEMBRANCE DAY



*Photograph by Max Reid  
courtesy USHMM Photo Archives*

*The 15th Street/Eisenhower Plaza entrance to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.*

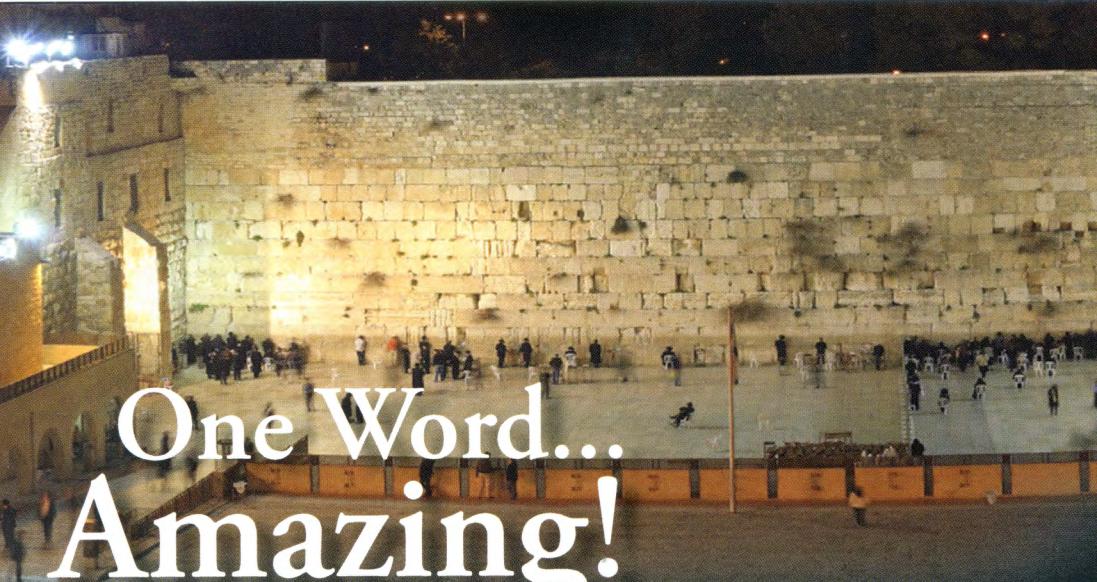
*Continued*

small act" and on the other it says "UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM."

The token measures 25 millimeters in diameter and is made of brass. Many museums and charitable foundations give something tangible—a notepad or return address labels, for example—along with their appeals, but this is the only time that I am aware of a token being used. □

***"January 27 marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated this day as International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD), an annual day of commemoration to honor the victims of the Nazi era. Every member nation of the U.N. has an obligation to honor the memory of Holocaust victims and develop educational programs as part of an international resolve to help prevent future acts of genocide."***

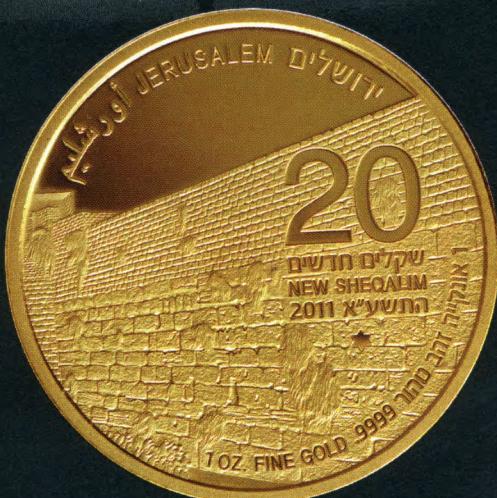
*From the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website:  
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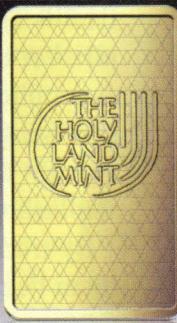
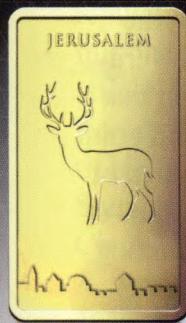
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# Seeds of destruction

## *THE WAR OF QUIETUS, 115-117 CE, AND THE ORIGINS OF ANTI-SEMITISM*

BY MARVIN TAMEANKO

Inflamed by the political situation in the Middle East, and quickly spread by global communications systems, anti-Semitism is again raising its ugly head all over the world. This virulent Judeophobia has sent scholars scurrying into ancient history in an attempt to discover the roots of this implacable hatred.

By tradition, modern anti-Semitism began in the first century Common Era. Jewish scholars and religious leaders attribute all the sufferings of the Jews to the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans in 70 CE, when the Jews lost their political and

religious freedom. This catastrophe is considered a turning point in Jewish history and the fasting day of Tisha B'Av was instituted to commemorate and mourn the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. So, it is not surprising that this event is the usual starting point of the search for the beginnings of anti-Semitism and that the coins of this Roman era are usually among the documents examined for the earliest signs of anti-Jewish biases.

In the first-century Roman Empire, the Flavian emperors, Vespasian, Titus and Domitian, ruling from 69 to 96, struck a large series

*Continued*



Images courtesy Classical Numismatic Group/www.cng.com

Opposite page: A debased fourree (silver-plated copper) denarius of Vespasian, 69-79 Common Era, showing a bound woman personifying Judaea; DEVICTA (Defeated) legend. Above: Rome mint sestertius JUDAEA CAPTA issue. Struck 71 Common Era. Obverse: Laureate head right; Reverse: IUDAEA CAPTA SC, in exergue, palm tree; to left, Vespasian standing right, holding spear and parazonium (baton of command), left foot on helmet; to right, captive woman representing Judaea, in attitude of mourning, seated right on cuirass.

Continued

of Judaea Capta or Devicta (captured or defeated) coins and many scholars believed these were minted to promote hatred of the Jews in the Roman Empire. Some modern numismatists disagree with this theory, and argue that these coins were minted simply as propaganda messages to improve the military reputations of the emperors. (For a full discussion of this thesis see the article, "Anti-Jewish Policy of the Roman Empire from Vespasian until Hadrian, in Light of Numismatic Sources - Fact or Fiction" by Jerzy Ciecielag, in the *Israel Numismatic Review*, (INR) No.1, 2006.) However, this argument is unconvincing and it is contradicted by the writings of 1st century Roman and Jewish historians.

In fact, we could say that hatred of the Jews is as old as history. If

we accept the Bible as a source of history, anti-Jewish policies were first mentioned in Exodus 1: 9-22, when around 1500 (Before Common Era), the Egyptians enslaved and oppressed the Israelites and, out of loathing and fear of their growing numbers, ordered the murder of their newborn sons. By any definition, this ancient genocide qualifies as the first recorded historical act of violent anti-Semitism.

Jewish history, for better or worse, is closely tied to the history of the Roman Empire and most historians directly trace anti-Semitism to the conflicts between Jews and Romans in the 1st century CE.

It is a complex and terrible story stimulated about 50 CE when the early Christians disavowed traditional Judaism and, to ingratiate themselves with the Roman rulers, adopted their customs and politics.

Continued

# HISTORY'S LEGACY STILL REAPING

*Continued*

This borrowing of culture included anti-Jewish sentiments and this is clearly illustrated in the Gospel of St. Matthew, in the New Testament, written about 50 CE. In this text, the apostle, actually a Jew named Mattathias, absolved the Roman authorities of the condemnation and crucifixion of Jesus and placed the blame entirely on the Jews, all of them, and all their descendants, even until eternity. The incriminating line in Matthew, 27:25, "Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be upon us, and on our children," was the beginning of religious anti-Semitism and cost the lives of millions of Jews, men, women and children, during the next 19 centuries. In the fourth century CE, the Romans under Constantine the Great, (307 to 337), accepted Christianity as their national religion and thereafter, political and religious anti-Jewish decrees became the law throughout the Empire.

In searching for the roots of anti-Semitism in the early centuries of the Common Era, most scholars concentrated on the two great wars that the Jews fought against Rome, the First Jewish War of 66-70, when the Temple was destroyed, and the Bar Kochba Revolt of 132-135. These are well documented and are usually identified

as the events that raised Roman anti-Semitism to its highest peak. In documenting the destruction of Jerusalem in First Jewish War, the greatest of all Roman historians, Tacitus, in his book, *Histories*, V, 5, recited the standard lies about Jews that have been repeated for centuries. He scornfully reported that the customs of the Jews are perverse and disgusting, that they are the most degraded of all the races, they are loyal to their brothers but are aloof and hate the rest of the world.

**T**

acitus added that Jews are lascivious, have feelings of superiority over other peoples, are disloyal to the countries they live in, and dishonor the emperor and his laws. These may have been the beliefs commonly held by Romans in those days but they are more than the words of intolerance and bigotry. They are part of a plot against the Jews, still used today, the first phase of which is to make the Jews into "the others," to dehumanize and disgrace them and to make them objects of scorn.

The Judaea Capta and Devicta coins, struck by the Romans after the First Jewish War, serve this purpose by degrading the Jews and taking away their dignity and self respect. The next phase in the

*Continued*

# ANCIENT BATTLES FED LARGER WAR

*Continued*

anti-Semitic formula is to demonize the Jews, making them into cruel sub-humans and, therefore, legitimate targets for destruction. This step requires that the Jews be feared and hated as a threat to the existence of the established order, and the Jewish rebellions in the first century CE served this purpose and were used as the fuel to set the Empire aflame.

Usually missing from the historical records is the fact that these two Jewish wars of 66 and 132, were linked together by a “middle revolt,” in 115-117, described in the Talmud and in Jewish history as the “War of Quietus.”

In some documents, this war is called the “War of Trajan,” after the Roman emperor who reigned at that time. In Jewish writings this revolt is often titled the “Kitos War” where Kitos is a corruption of the Roman surname, Quietus. This is the surname of Lusius Quietus, the military commander appointed as governor of Judaea by the Roman emperor Trajan in 117 to suppress the Jewish revolts.

In fact, the War of Quietus was actually a series of terrible, small rebellions started by Diaspora Jews in Africa, Egypt, Cyprus, and Mesopotamia, and fought against their Roman, Greek or pagan neighbors.

From a Jewish point of view, these conflicts were perhaps the

legitimate responses to longtime discrimination and oppression but the revolts were so violent and unexpected that they caused more hatred of the Jews than the two formal wars that took place in Judaea in 69 and 132.

These two Jewish wars against Rome in Judaea were local, nationalistic struggles, wars quite common in the Roman Empire at that time, but the War of Quietus, with all the horrors of a civil war, took place in the Diaspora, turning neighbors and friends on each other, and causing a widespread revulsion for Jews.

The First Jewish War in Judaea broke out when Nero was the emperor of Rome, 54-68, and the “Second War” or Bar Kochba Revolt, took place during the reign of Hadrian (117 to 138). In both these wars, considered by the Judaeans as rebellions against oppressive occupiers and wars of liberation, the Jews fought valiantly, often defeating powerful Roman legions and holding out against superior forces for years.

# A

As was usual in such bitter wars of those days, there were atrocities committed on both sides, equal to the atrocities committed in modern wars. The so-called middle revolt, the War of Quietus (115

*Continued*

# UNSEEN HANDS TRIGGER REVOLT

*Continued*

to 117), took place during the reign of Trajan, (98 to 117), and was a series of local insurrections, setting Jews in several countries against oppressive authorities but

also against their neighbors. Jewish scholars were so embarrassed by the excessive violence, they refused to document the Diaspora wars in detail, and instead reported them as minor events when compared to the two “clean” wars in Judaea.

Despite its minimization, the middle revolt tied the two main wars together to effectively make one long Jewish rebellion, stretching from 66 to 135, and this simmering conflict, lasting for 69 years, may have been the impetus for Roman anti-Semitism.

Historians are puzzled by the causes of the War of Quietus, a conflict that caused many deaths and much destruction. Some scholars blame these rebellions on the suffering and persecution inflicted on the Diaspora Jews by their neighbors. Other sages see nationalistic reasons as the causes,



*Images courtesy Classical Numismatic Group, CNG, [www.cngcoins.com](http://www.cngcoins.com). A silver drachm of the Parthian king Osroes I (109 to 129 CE), who, unlike other rulers, was a friend of the Persian Jews.*

with the Diaspora Jews wanting to establish their own countries ruled by Jewish kings. Even the meticulous, official annals of Rome do not record the reasons for this widespread turmoil.

But the most reasonable explanation seems to be that the warrior emperor, Trajan, when he forcibly extended the boundaries of the Roman Empire eastward, threatened and inflamed the large, flourishing Jewish communities in Egypt, Africa, Mesopotamia and especially into the Parthian (Persian) Empire. In 106, Trajan conquered Nabataea, the kingdom to the east of Judaea and made it into the Roman province of Arabia with Bostra as its new capital city. This was a threat to the Jews in the East, especially the Jews of Parthia, descendants of the Judaeans exiles taken to Babylon in 586 BCE.

This diaspora was an important,

*Continued*

# POLICY OF TOLERANCE IN WORD ONLY



Images courtesy Classical Numisatics Group/[www.cng.com](http://www.cng.com)

A 27 millimeter bronze coin struck for Trajan (98 to 117), in Caesarea Maritima in Judaea.

*Continued*

wealthy, virtually autonomous community and highly placed in Persian society, so it was possible that the king of Parthia, Osroes I, (109 to 129 CE), who was locked in a life and death struggle with Rome, enlisted his loyal Jewish subjects to oppose the rule of the Roman empire.

Trajan's expansion eastwards certainly threatened the Jewish Diaspora in the East but the causes of the middle revolt may have been more complicated. The War of Quietus was actually several small, rebellions in countries where the Jews had become dissatisfied with Roman rule even before Trajan became emperor.

Trajan was not known as a Jew hater and, following the policy set by his predecessors, he maintained a tolerant policy toward the Jews in the Empire, even sponsoring many public works in Judaea. The emperor

or struck several coins to advertise his beneficence to Jewish cities. One notable coin struck by Trajan for the city of Caesarea Maritima in Judaea showed the emperor sacrificing at an altar honoring the peaceful community in the city. (See photographs above.)

So, perhaps in his campaigns to enlarge the Roman Empire by expanding eastwards in 106, the Diaspora Jews just got in the way.

In 110, fighting broke out between Jews and Greeks in Cyrenaica, the Roman province in North Africa, just west of Egypt. These two peoples, both long time residents in this region, had always been fierce competitors in business, political influence and in religious privileges. They often came into conflict, participating in street fights and attacks on each other's religious buildings.

**END PART ONE**

# Chanuka's Haman



BY MEL WACKS

If there was such a thing as a Chanuka Megillah we could make noise at each mention of Antiochus. After all, it was Antiochus IV Epiphanes, King of Syria from 175 to 164 BCE, who - according to the Second Book of Maccabees - "became as furious as a wild animal.

"So he left Egypt and took Jerusalem by storm, giving his men orders to cut down without mercy everyone they

met and to slaughter anyone they found hiding in the houses. They murdered everyone - men and women, boys and girls; even babies were butchered. Three days later Jerusalem had lost 80,000 people: 40,000 killed in the attack and at least that many taken away to be sold as slaves. But Antiochus was still not satisfied. He even dared to enter the holiest Temple in all the world, guided by

*Continued*

# ANTIOCHUS IV RAPACIOUS DEFILER



*Photo courtesy Classical Numismatic Group*

*We may not know what Haman looked like, but we do know the appearance of Antiochus IV from his coins, such as this youthful portrait on a half dollar-size silver tetradrachm (opposite page); the reverse, above, has Zeus seated on a throne, holding the goddess Nike, symbolizing victory, in his right hand.*

*Continued*

Menelaus, who had become a traitor both to his religion and to his people. With his filthy and unholy hands, Antiochus swept away the sacred objects of worship and the gifts which other kings had given to increase the glory and honor of the Temple."

His evil deeds continued: "Antiochus hated the Jews so much that he sent an army of 22,000 mercenary troops from Mysia to Jerusalem under the command of a man named Apollonius, with orders to kill every man in the city and to sell

the women and boys as slaves. Apollonius arrived in Jerusalem, pretending to be on a peace mission. Then on a Sabbath, when all the Jews were observing the day of rest, he led his troops, who were fully armed, in a parade outside the city. Suddenly he commanded his men to kill everyone who had come out to see them. They rushed into the city and murdered a great many people."

The Syrian King met a bad end, just as befell Haman: "[Antiochus] ordered his chariot driver not to stop until they

*Continued*

# COIN LEGENDS CALL ANTIOCHUS “GOD”



*Image courtesy Goldberg's Coins*

*A tetradrachm struck 175 to 164 BCE, during the reign of terror Antiochus IV inflicted upon Jerusalem and its people. Diademed bust on obverse; reverse has Zeus seated left, holding Nike on right hand and resting left on sceptre, with the Greek inscription of KING ANTIOCHUS, GOD MADE MANIFEST.*

*Continued*

reached Jerusalem. With great arrogance he said, I will turn Jerusalem into a graveyard full of Jews. But he did not know that he was heading straight for God's judgment. In fact, as soon as he had said these words, the all-seeing Lord, the God of Israel, struck him down with an invisible but fatal blow. He was seized with sharp intestinal pains for which there was no relief, a fitting punishment for the man who had tortured others in so many terrible ways! But this in no way caused him to give up his pride. Instead he became more arrogant than ever, and breathing out fiery threats against the Jews, he gave orders to drive even faster. As a result he fell out of his chariot with such a thud that it made every bone in his body ache. His arrogant pride made him think he had the superhuman strength

to make ocean waves obey him and to weigh high mountains on a pair of scales. But suddenly he fell flat on the ground and had to be carried off on a stretcher, a clear sign to everyone of God's power. Even the eyes of this godless man were crawling with worms and he lived in terrible pain and agony. The stink was so bad that his entire army was sickened, and no one was able to come close enough to carry him around."

So what did Antiochus do shortly before his miserable death? He had the chutzpah to write the following letter to the Jews:

"King Antiochus to the Jews, my most distinguished subjects. Warm greetings and best wishes for your health and prosperity. I hope that you and your families are in good health and that all goes well with you. My hope is in God, and I re-

*Continued*

# HOLY RETRIBUTION SMITES EVIL KING



*Images courtesy ForumAncientCoins.com*

*Bronze of Antiochus IV with his portrait on the obverse, and a scorpion on the reverse.*

*Continued*

member with a deep sense of joy the respect and kindness that you have shown me.”

And so, according to the Second Book of Maccabees: “Judas Maccabeus and his followers, under the leadership of the Lord, recaptured the Temple and the city of Jerusalem. They tore down the altars which foreigners had set up in the marketplace and destroyed the other places of worship that had been built. They purified the Temple and built a new altar.

“Then, with new fire started by striking flint, they offered sacrifice for the first time in two years, burned incense, lighted the lamps, and set out the sacred loaves. After they had done all this, they lay face down on the ground and prayed that the Lord would never again let such disasters strike them. They begged him to be merciful when he punished them for future sins and not hand them over any more to barbaric, pagan Gentiles. They rededicated the Temple on the

twenty-fifth day of the month of Kislev, the same day of the same month on which the Temple had been desecrated by the Gentiles. The happy celebration lasted eight days, like the Festival of Shelters, and the people remembered how only a short time before, they had spent the Festival of Shelters wandering like wild animals in the mountains and living in caves. But now, carrying green palm branches and sticks decorated with ivy, they paraded around, singing grateful praises to him who had brought about the purification of his own Temple. Everyone agreed that the entire Jewish nation should celebrate this festival each year.”

The story of Antiochus is only part of the inspirational story of Chanuka — the other part is the series of dramatic victories by the Maccabean forces.

In the absence of a Chanuka Megillah, it would be worthwhile to consider adding a new tradition to the holiday by reading portions of the Second Book of Maccabees. □

# IN MEMORIAM

# Daniel Friedenberg

BY IRA REZAK

Daniel Meyer Friedenberg, the distinguished real estate developer, author, Judaica collector, and philanthropist, passed away on Aug. 28, 2011, in his 89th year.

Mr. Friedenberg was born to Samuel and Rose Friedenberg on Feb. 24, 1923 in the Yorkville section of New York City. His father had arrived in New York in the course of the great 19th century Jewish immigration to the United States from Poland while his native born mother was of an eminent Jewish Hungarian lineage.

During his youth, Mr. Friedenberg was influenced both by his father's interests in numismatics and in Jewish affairs, and by a kindly curator of geology at the American Museum of Natural History, with the result that he early developed and maintained throughout his long and active



*Daniel Meyer Friedenberg*

life a remarkably broad range of intellectual interests which served as engines of his renowned career as a collector, scholar and author.

After service in the U.S. Army Signal Corps toward the end of the World War II,

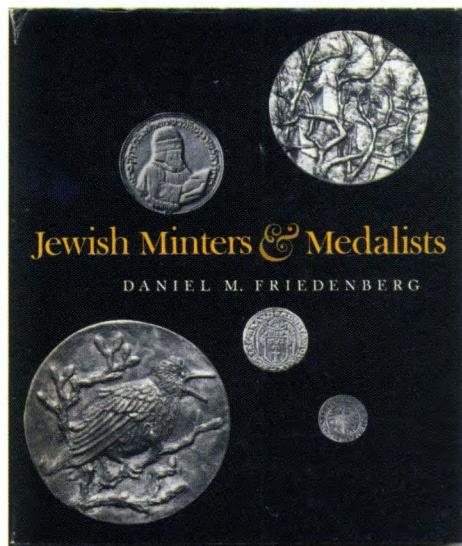
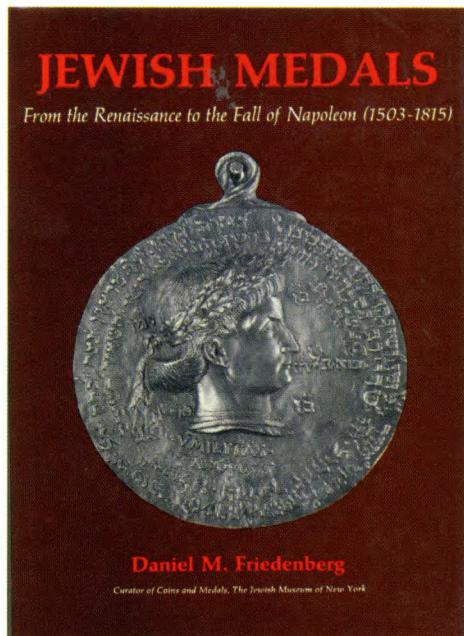
and then travelling through post-war Europe and the Far East, Mr. Friedenberg entered the family real estate business, the John-Platt Realty Co. He ultimately assumed its presidency and emerged as an important developer of both commercial and residential properties in Manhattan.

He regularly published poetry over many years and was the author of three novels, of which the most recent, *Tiberius Julius Alexander* [2010], was a fictionalized version of the life of a remarkable personality of the first century of the Common Era. Though born

*Continued*

*Photo courtesy, Ira Rezak*

# Numismatic expert, historian, author



Two of Daniel M. Friedenberg's notable numismatic books.

Continued

a Jew, Tiberius Julius Alexander served as a general of Roman armies in the Middle East.

In 2000, Daniel M. Friedenberg was listed as one of the "Outstanding Writers of the 20th Century."

Dan Friedenberg's most extensive and influential authorial contributions were in the area of Jewish numismatics and sigillography. Here, his personal collections, curatorial activities, and extensive donations to multiple cultural institutions formed a nexus of scholarship from which emerged five volumes, each of which broke new ground in its field.

*Great Jewish Portraits in Metal* [1963] was largely descriptive of the collection his father had both formed and donated to the Jewish Museum in New York, and of which he became curator and to which he was the principal donor for more than 30 years until 1979.

This volume was a pioneering work, focusing sustained attention for the first time on the importance of medallic art for the Jewish historical record, a field within which numismatic study had previously been devoted virtually exclusively to treatments of ancient coins.

A second major publication was *Jewish Medals: From the Renaissance to Napoleon (1503-1815)*

Continued

# The passing of a legend in many fields

*Continued*

[1970], the first comprehensive corpus and a well illustrated catalogue raisonné of such material, that also contained a survey of known specimens in major collections.

The third work in Friedenberg's Jewish numismatic trilogy was *Jewish Minters and Medalists* [1976] which offered an overview and analysis of the role of Jews in the design and production of coins and medals, both those incorporating Jewish themes and those situated in the secular culture of their times. In addition to other articles in numismatic journals such as the *Numismatist* and the *Shekel* on similar subjects, Mr. Friedenberg was the author of the article on "Jewish Coins and Medals" in the *Encyclopedia Judaica* [1969].

He was elected a Fellow of the American Numismatic Society and honored with the Heath Literary Award for Distinguished Numismatic Achievement of the American Numismatic Association.

Daniel M. Friedenberg was also a noteworthy sigillographic pioneer, producing corpuses and analyses of Jewish seals, an important field of material culture treated previously only in a fragmentary way.



*Paul Vincze created this medal featuring Daniel Friedenberg's parents, Samuel and Rose Klein Friedenberg, in 1969.*

*Medieval Jewish Seals from Europe* [1986], published by Wayne State University, was the first, and to this date remains the only comprehensive work on this subject; as such it is widely cited in scholarly literature devoted to this period.

An important essay on "The Evolution and Use of Jewish Byzantine Stamp Seals" [1995]

*Continued*

# Philanthropist to museums and more

*Continued*

examined an entirely different form and function of seals in Jewish communal context. A more recent publication by the University of Illinois Press, “Sassanian Jewry and Its Culture: A Lexicon of Jewish and Related Seals” [2008], explored the iconography and epigraphy of an obscure and little studied period of Jewish history.

Beyond his authorial exposes of real estate manipulation and political shenanigans in America, and treatments of the historical significance of Jewish coins, medals and seals abroad, Daniel Friedenberg possessed substantial knowledge concerning, and formed noteworthy collections especially of Jewish religious and folk artifacts, manuscripts and books, but also of Greco-Roman antiquities, pre-Columbian art, English language literary first editions, and modern paintings.

Items from these holdings were often freely lent to museums - an outstanding example being *A Discerning Eye: Highlights from the Collections of Daniel M. Friedenberg* exhibited at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2004.

In recent years several of his collections were dispersed in public sales while a great many other groupings and individual

objects were donated to a wide range of museums.

Among the principal beneficiaries of major gifts, and of Mr. Friedenberg’s more general financial support, were The Jewish Museum in New York, the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary, The American Numismatic Society, the Museum of Jewish Heritage, The American Folk Art Museum and the Walters Art Gallery.

He was a long time member of the Harry G. Friedman Society of the Jewish Museum, actively participating in its meetings for many years and lecturing to it on topics as diverse as Jewish numismatics, the Jews of Puglia, Italy, and the evolution of his own motivations and activities as a collector.

Daniel M. Friedenberg, a successful man of affairs, managed through a long and productive life to develop and maintain a keen intellectual persona and a restless, questing edge.

Dan’s passing leaves us with a sense of immediate loss, but his loyalty to family and friends, dedication to Jewish and American cultural institutions, personal scholarly achievement, and philanthropic generosity assure that, as traditionally expressed, “his memory remains as a blessing.” □

# Profile of a Young Numismatist leader

Walter Ostromecki, Jr., was born in Southport, Conn., where at age 2, the family moved to Fairfield and then later to New London. Dr. Walt, as Walter is affectionately known to his numismatic friends, tells the story of how his father, Walter, Sr., had served on destroyers during WWII, including the USS Electra.

The ship was sunk in the battle of Leyte Gulf; his father was one of only 47 survivors. His mother, Agnes, worked for Navy Lockheed, a real-life "Rosie the Riveter," and she also played professional baseball as a catcher for the Women's League in Arizona, just like the movie "A League of Their Own," prior to and during WWII.

Dr. Walt was drafted into the Army in 1966. He took Basic and Military Police training at Ft. Jefferson, La. In addition to serving in combat in Vietnam in 1966-1967, Dr. Walt also served as an MP at Tan Son Nhut Airbase. He then was sent to Austria as part of the US-UN Peace Keeping Force along the Austria/Czechoslovakian border. Dr. Walt left the Army in 1968 with a rank of E-6/Sergeant.

Accepted to UCLA in 1969, Dr. Walt's education has covered a variety of subjects: Biology, Botany, Industrial Relations and Horticulture. In 1984, Dr. Walt attained full tenure as a professor and in 1985, he took a sabbatical to Costa Rica



Walter Ostromecki

for nine months for plant research.

Dr. Walt continued his education and completed work on his Master's in Education in 1987. Dr. Walt continued his teaching career as Professor of Botany, High School Dean, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Administrator. He finally retired in 2008, and

looks back fondly on a career filled with many accolades and awards.

In 1971, Dr. Walt met with Mamie Eisenhower and former U.S. Treasurer, Georgia Nesse Clark, regarding the soon to be released Eisenhower dollar. Dr. Walt's passion for "First Lady" collecting has covered more than 39 years.

Dr. Walt is a life member of the ANA and has been an AINA member for a number of years. He has been an active Board Member of the ANA in addition to being the head of its Young Numismatists program for many years.

His enthusiasm not only for numismatics but also for the kids themselves shines brightly through the programs he brings each and every year, not only to the ANA shows, but to other shows throughout the nation as well.

He believes that the hobby should reach out to both parents and kids, and the proof is seen in the hundreds who have benefited from his educational yet

*Continued*

# Ostromiecki longtime supporter of youth

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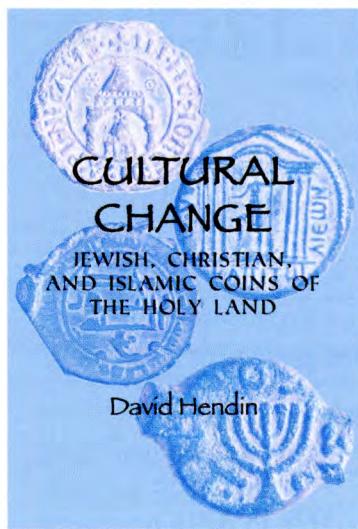
fun programs. Dr. Walt's famous Treasure Hunt has been and still is his most popular program. The premiere of this program, held at an ANA Show in 1999, drew more than 750 participating kids and families alike. He has held numerous Treasure Hunt and YN Auction events throughout western states since 1999. He attributes his earnest desire for the hobby from his two mentors from years ago, the late Ed Borgolte and the late Murray Singer. Their tireless efforts brought forth his wholesome eagerness for the hobby.

Through the years, in addition to being a member of a number of numismatic organizations, Dr.

Walt has also served as president of 11 different coin clubs. He was a freelance writer for *Coin World* for more than 12 years and has had 271 articles published. In 1979, on the front page of *Coin World*, an article detailed his efforts to get Congress to officially recognize and endorse National Coin Week.

AINA is proud to have among its ranks, an extremely busy member by the name of Walter Ostromiecki. On a closing note, I would like to extend my congratulations, both personal and on behalf of AINA, to Dr. Walt on being elected Vice-President of the ANA. Job well done.

*Written by Donna J. Sims, NLG*



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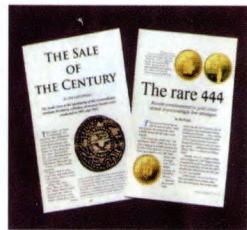
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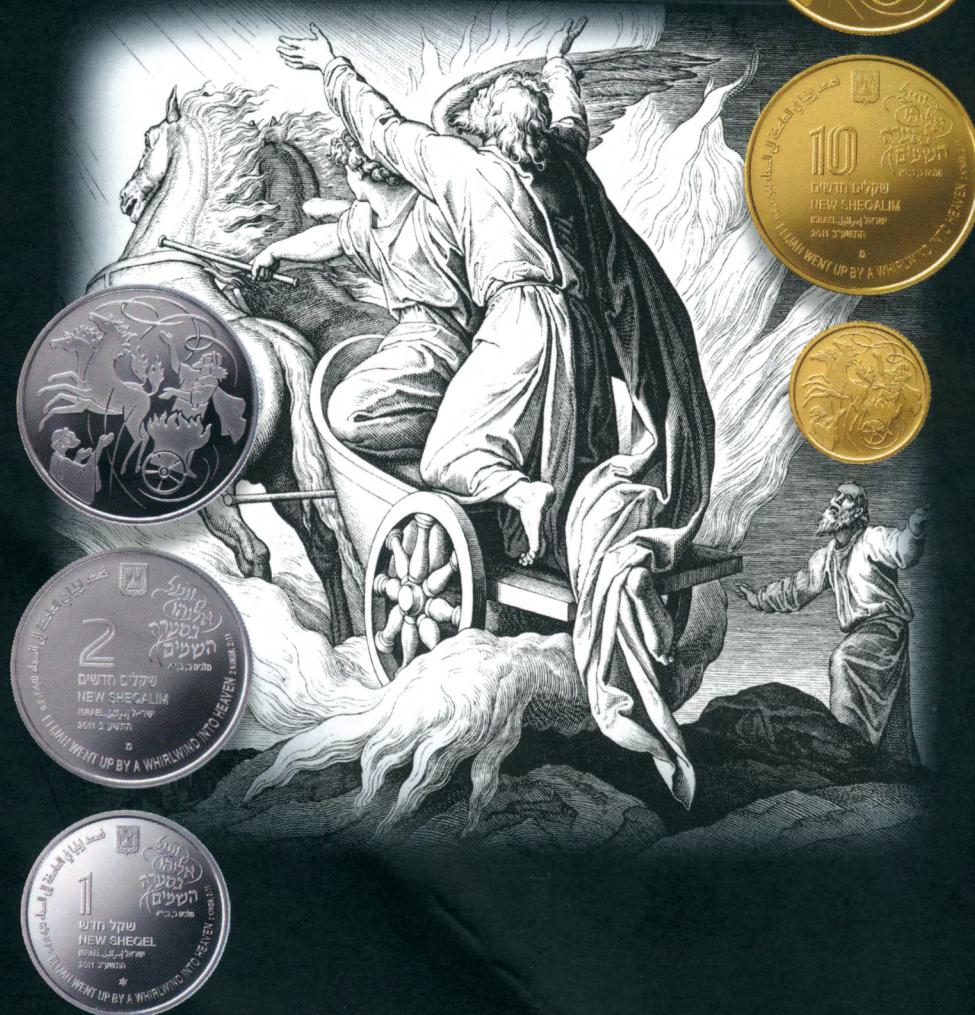
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